

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00214 221736Z
ACTION SS-25

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O 221635Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 6709
AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAMM
USUN NEW YORK 902
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0214

EXDIS

LONDON FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, RH, US, UK
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: BRITISH SUGGESTIONS OF APPROACHES TO
NKOMO AND KAUNDA

REF: LONDON 2828,,2829, LUSKAA 0533

1. WE AGREE FULLY WITH EMBASSY LUSAKA THAT WE SHOULD DISCOURAGE
UK FROM APPROACHING NKOMO TO JOIN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.
2. PROPOSED REFTTEL APPROACHES, IF UNDERTAKEN, WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY
REACH EAR OF MACHEL. HE WILL BE ANGRY ON SEVERAL COUNTS.
A. FIRST, NO MATTER HOW UK MAY TRY TO JUSTIFY OR EXPLAIN THEIR
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APPROACHES, MACHEL WILL PERCEIVE WHAT UK IS DOING AS UK SUPPORT
FOR AND CONNIVANCE WITH AN
INTERNAL SETTLEMENT. WHILE MACHEL APPRECIATES THAT THERE IS STRONG
SUPPORT IN UK FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AND THAT FOR THIS REASON
THE LABOR GOVERNMENT MAY NOT BE IN POSITION PUBLICLY TO REJECT
OR CONDEMN THE SETTLEMENT, HE WOULD NOT EXPECT
TO SEE THE UK TURN ITS BACK SO QUICKLY ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN

PLAN WHICH IS HOW HE WOULD VIEW REFTEL MANUEVERS.

B. SECOND, MACHEL WILL BE IRRITATED TO LEARN THAT THE UK ARE URGING NKOMO TO PARTICIPATE IN THE SETTLEMENT WHICH HE WILL SEE AS AN ATTEMPT TO SPLIT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. ADMITTEDLY, UNITY BETWEEN ZANU AND ZAPU IS MINIMAL, BUT MACHEL AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS HAVE WORKED HARD TO CREATE THE PF AND STILL ENTERTAIN HOPES SOMETHING MAY COME OF THEIR EFFORTS.

3. IF THE REFTEL APPROACHES ARE MADE, WE RISK LOSING MUCH OF THE GOOD WILL AND CREDIBILITY WE HAVE ESTABLISHED WITH MACHEL THIS PAST YEAR. MORE SERIOUS, HOWEVER, IS THE RISK THAT THESE MANUEVERS WOULD SO ANGER MACHEL THAT HE WOULD WASH HIS HANDS ENTIRELY OF THE AAP AND TURN TO THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS FOR EVEN MORE MILITARY HELP IN WAGING THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE.

4. APART FROM THE ABOVE OBJECTIONS WE BELIEVE IT MAKES SENSE TO WAIT TO SEE HOW THE AFRICANS REACT TO EVENTS IN SALISBURY BEFORE RUSHING INTO ACTION. THE OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN TRIPOLI WILL GIVE US OUR FIRST MEASURE OF AFRICAN REACTION. FROM WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED, THE MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION WHICH IS HEADED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO, WILL SEEK A RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE INTERNAL AGREEMENT. IF THE FRONT LINE STATES COLLECTIVELY TAKE A STRONG STAND ON THIS ISSUE, WE BELIEVE THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THE OAU MINISTERS WILL SUPPORT THEM. CONFIDENTIAL

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IF THIS HAPPENS, WE CAN THEN EXPECT AN EFFORT TO OBTAIN A SIMILAR CONDEMNATION FROM THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL.

5. IT IS OUR JUDGEMENT THAT NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO BE WORKING AGAINST OUR OWN PROPOSAL.
DE PREE

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